

## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA NEWSLETTER

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### POUND OF PREVENTION

Visiting firemen from the Saanich fire department stepped down from their usual role as instructors in fire prevention during a recent visit to the UVic campus.

Instead, the firemen received a guided tour of the elaborate series of preventions and cures designed to keep the UVic chemistry department operating safely.

Leading the tour and pointing out the precautions peculiar to a building stocked with chemicals and laboratory equipment, was Dr. Paul West.

"The faculty and staff are trained in the use of various pieces of equipment," Dr. West told the visitors. "Practically all members of the staff can actually put out fires."

Firefighting expertise was acquired during a course conducted on campus in the first weeks of September.

"During the same period we demonstrated the use of self-contained air packs used to rescue individuals overcome by toxic gases."

Surprise fire drills throughout the year keep Elliott Building occupants alert for emergencies, Dr. West said. Staff and student fire marshalls are assigned to various sections of the floors.

The value of this network of precautions has proved itself on at least one occasion.

"Someone once dropped a bottle of concentrated ammonia solution in a store-room," Dr. West recalled. "This produced ammonia gas which is very corrosive — hundreds of times more so than household cleaner. We managed to clean it up using volunteers with gas masks. With no apparatus we would have had to shut off the building for a day."

In addition to standard published safety information, the Chemistry Department issues two comprehensive safety manuals. "We try to buttress ourselves with as much information as we can from other quarters," Dr. West said.

Most thorough, consisting of 12 pages and two appendices, the safety manual is distributed to faculty, permanent staff and

graduate students.

The document outlines recommended and mandatory safety procedures in the department, lists specific hazards and gives the location and specifications of safety equipment. It also details the recommended exit routes in the event of a major emergency.

Undergraduate students are supplied with a five page Laboratory Safety Bulletin which they must read and sign before working in the laboratories.

Safety equipment mentioned in the bulletin includes both carbon dioxide and dry chemical fire extinguishers, sand pails, fire blankets, first aid kits, electrical cutoffs and safety showers.

The ubiquitous safety showers are for use on a person splashed with corrosive liquid. Pulling the ring and chain or rod



*Saanich Fire Department representatives inspected safety equipment in the UVic Chemistry Department. Dr. Paul West conducted the tour. Above, he indicates the display of emergency numbers to Assistant Fire Chief Hector McNeill.*



assembly of the shower releases five gallons of water. Near the showers are treadle-operated eyewash fountains used for minor splashes into the face and eyes.

But it was atop the Elliott building in an elite corner of the Chemistry Department that firemen were confronted with the most exotic safety equipment.

The Special Experiments room will soon be the site of the department's most hazardous experiments. It is, said Dr. West, a place where explosions could occur under more or less controlled conditions.

Blow out panels in the walls are designed to help prevent concussion from explosions. The flooring is seamless, the walls styrofoam. The room is equipped with an elbow-operated alarm and alarm silencer.

The isolated little cell is the epitome of Chemistry Department care and foresight.

Firemen participating in the two hour tour seemed to have no inclination to dispute Dr. West's claim that the UVic Chemistry Department is the "best local example of a well organized safety system in a dangerous area."

But by Dr. West's definition even this is not quite enough: "A perfect safety system has no usage at all."

## DAILY MAIL

"Everyone takes the mail room for granted," says Edna Kowalchuk, Supervisor of the Mail Services and reverently described by one of her staff members as "the ever-present godmother of the mail."

"No one ever phones us up to say thank you," Mrs. Kowalchuk says. "They just phone us when something is lost. And in all the times something has been lost it has never been our fault. It's always been lost in the department."

Mrs. Kowalchuk has been with the mail services more than seven years. In that time 41 students have earned their tuition by working part time in the "luxuriously decorated" mail room.

However, it is of her permanent staff that Mrs. Kowalchuk speaks with almost maternal pride.

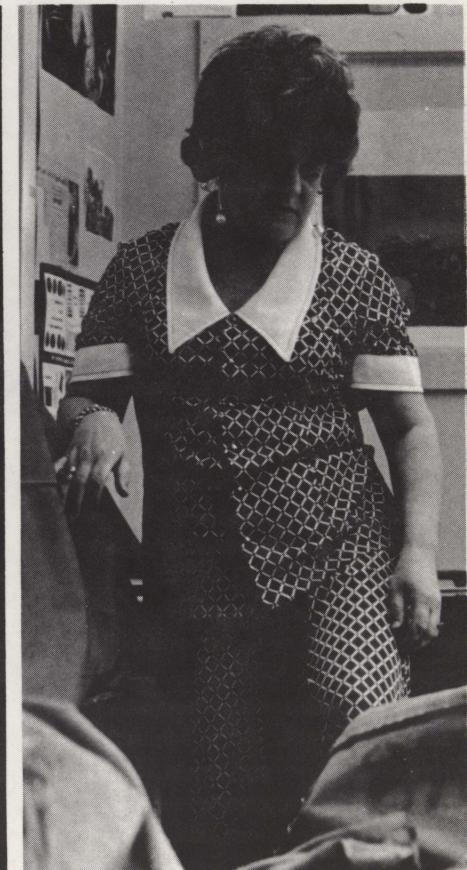
"It's amazing how well they all get along, both at work and after. I feel like Mother to them — I have birthday parties for them all at my house."

The mail room moves about 2,000 pounds of mail a month, approximately 680 bags full.

Mail staffers also run a variety of extra trips — to the post office, to the airport.



*Top photo: Lavishly stamped parcel from Japan claimed to contain rice cakes, green tea and dry tafu. Lower left: Another unusual delivery. Lower right: Edna Kowalchuk wades into a mound of mail.*



The extra errands warrant extra charges, but these are beside the point to Mrs. Kowalchuk. They don't replace appreciation.

She is still waiting to pick up the phone and hear a good word.

## EDITORIAL OPINIONS

The appointment of Dr. John Woods (philosophy) as English Language Editor of the Canadian Philosophical Association's bilingual journal *Dialogue* has confronted him with "a microcosm of the Canadian Cultural Dilemma."

"Canadian authors have a natural claim on *Dialogue*," Dr. Woods explained, "but the Canadian Philosophical Association wants *Dialogue* to be first rate."

Dr. Woods and French Language editor Dr. Francois Duchesneau (vice dean of the University of Ottawa's Department of Philosophy, who shares the five year appointment) are determined both conditions can be satisfied.

"Duchesneau and I wouldn't have taken these positions if we hadn't been utterly convinced that the two criteria can be met simultaneously," Dr. Woods said. "And," he added "under the two new editors there will be a very significant majority of Canadian works."

The quarterly journal, which appears in March, June, September and December, is read by the approximately 2,000 members of the Canadian Philosophical Association. Although only 12 years old, *Dialogue* is, in terms of age, the senior philosophical publication in Canada. Its competitor is a still more recent publication, the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*.

Contributions to *Dialogue* come from practising philosophers in all parts of the English speaking world, France, Switzerland and Belgium, with a large proportion from the United States.

Standards for contributors, said Dr. Woods, are "very tough".

"The English speaking editor receives about 800 submissions annually. We can contemplate publishing 250 pages top, which might run to 20 accepted pieces in English — an enormously low acceptance rate."

"Like it or not — and I don't — the editor does wield a lot of power. So long as it remains true that the professional philosopher's well-being is indicated, if not determined, by his publications, when we have to say 'no' to almost every submission we get we better be making our decisions responsibly."

The scope of the editorial position is broad.

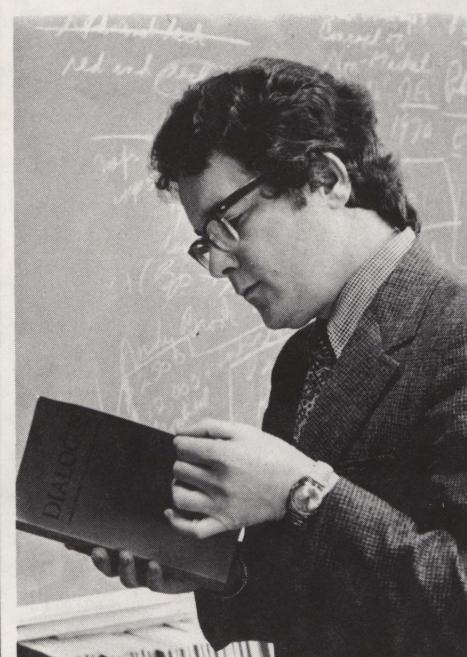
"If we owned *Dialogue* we could run it according to our narrow criteria; it could be an expression of our philosophical

views. But it is owned by the Canadian Philosophical Association which has a large and catholic membership."

"One of the responsibilities of the editors is to see that the publication is representative of the philosophical activities of the Association, even if perchance the editors don't think too much of those activities. So it can't be cliquish or narrowly conceived."

"Everyone is very keen to see that *Dialogue* be a journal of international standing — that its papers regularly command the attentions of scholars."

"Therefore it must be catholic and it must be good. It must also significantly represent what goes on in Canada."



Dr. John Woods

Dr. Woods is also conscious of the pressures of Canadian regionalism.

Because care is taken to reflect in *Dialogue* the character of Canadian philosophy from coast to coast, he explained, a small university in the Maritimes might have a slight edge over a large multiversity in Toronto when the selections for publication are made.

Dr. Woods and his co-editor are also concerned with finding new voices in the field of Philosophy.

"When we have never heard of the author, a submission is burdened."

"I want to establish a country wide network of people we trust with the specific task of hunting down first rate young people who have yet to make a national

reputation and encourage them to make submissions."

To assist in selecting submissions for their first issue of *Dialogue* (September 1974) Drs. Woods and Duchesneau have chosen a board of 30 CPA members from across Canada to serve as referees.

"This will provide a certain quality control for the content of the journal and it allows the editors to be rather more ruthless than they are on a one-to-one basis."

"The board members all have reputations one could admire and they will be asked to work very hard."

Dr. Woods also intends to commission some writing from Canadian philosophers of "considerable international standing."

One major change in editorial form being contemplated by the new editors of *Dialogue* arises from the issue of bilingualism.

"We are a bilingual association, the journal is bilingual — the only difficulty is the vast majority of the membership is not bilingual. So what do you do?"

The practice in the past, Dr. Woods said, was for English and French editors to act reasonably independently with the result that each member of the association read at least half of the journal.

"We think the first need is to achieve a type of biculturalism, and if the paper reflects biculturalism, bilingualism will follow in due time."

"What we will try to do is to convey the style and flavor of philosophy done in Quebec to English speaking readers by having Quebecois philosophers tell in English what they're doing and we'll do the same for them."

"It means if necessary we will commission a Quebecois philosopher to prepare a paper in English and if his English is not up to the mark we will encourage him to have it translated."

"I think biculturalism is a higher priority than bilingualism. Bilingualism will come to pass only if it serves a felt need."

Publication in *Dialogue* and its counterparts in other countries may, as Dr. Woods said, "earn points with deans" but that is not the journals' most important function.

"Such scholarly work is also the lifeline which prevents courses from going dead."

"University teaching benefits enormously from continuing active scholarship. This is one way of making a distinction between a university and a community college: at a university the teaching staff are active scholars."

## THE PRESIDENCY EXAMINED

The Watergate scandal will be the focal point of a special series of lectures being offered as part of the UVic Division of Continuing Education's Spring Session.

Entitled the "American Presidency in Crisis", the lecture series will be held Monday evenings from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. beginning January 14.

Explaining the decision to include the Watergate scrutiny in the spring session Director Laurence Devlin said, "The division felt a systematic exploration of the topical situation might be of use to the community.

"As Canadians we don't have a very good grasp of the American political system. We asked the Political Science Department to help put the recent events in context."

The course will feature several political science lecturers coordinated by Professor Frances Smith.

As in most Continuing Education courses, the sessions will be a combination of lectures, group discussions and analyses.

Other additions to the Continuing Education program in the spring include Evolution of Man and Culture: Some New Perspectives.

"This is a particularly exciting series," Dr. Devlin said. "Anthropology has a great deal to say on a number of contemporary problems".

Another new course is entitled Not Only Alice, a look at selecting worthwhile children's literature.

Successful repetitions from the fall session include a literature course conducted entirely in French. This session Le Theatre francais contemporain will deal with 20th century French plays and playwrights.

Also being offered again is the course in Greenhouse Flower Crops.

"There has been very heavy registration in this course in the past," Dr. Devlin said. As part of the course is held inside the UVic greenhouse, Dr. Devlin pointed out the community is able to share both the University's academic and physical resources.

## Next Deadline

Friday, one week before publication

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## Faculty News

### CHEMISTRY

Dr. R.N. O'Brien has been invited to attend the Winter Gorden Research Conference in Electro-chemistry at Santa Barbara, California, from January 6 to 11, 1974 and to give a seminar at UCLA on the subject "Interferometry as a Chemical Tool".

Over 100 Chemistry Faculty, Staff, Researchers and Graduate Students assembled at the Royal Oak Inn on December 20th to celebrate the Christmas season by dining on Baron of Beef and dancing to the electronically amplified vibes of 'Jade'. In attendance as guests of honour were Professor Emeritus L.J. Clark and Mrs. Clark.

## Coming Events

### FRIDAY, January 11

3:30 pm Meeting, Arts & Science. Elliott 167.  
8:15 pm Ice Hockey. Esquimalt Arena. UVic vs CFB.

### SATURDAY, January 12

2:30 pm Rugby. Gordon Head. Castaways vs Vikings.  
6:00 pm Men's Basketball. Trinity College. Victoria vs Trinity College.  
8:00 pm Ice Hockey. Chemainus. UVic vs Chemainus.

### MONDAY, January 14

8:15 pm Meeting. Elliott 168. Art as Therapy, Kathleen Van Sickle, BFA, ATR, Art Therapist, Victoria Mental Health Centre.

### TUESDAY, January 15

4:30 pm Music. MacLaurin 144. Paul Brodie, Canada's internationally admired concert saxophonist.

7:00 pm CUPE Workshop. Cornett 108.  
7:30 pm Lecture, Department of Bacteriology and Biochemistry. Lansdowne 117. "Post-secondary Trends in Enrollment and Finance", Mr. J.T. Matthews, Dean of Administration, University of Victoria.

### WEDNESDAY, January 16

12:30 pm Meeting, Fine Arts. MacLaurin 191.  
7:00 pm Faculty and Staff Chess. Clearihue 128.

7:30 pm Senate meeting. Cornett 112.

### FRIDAY, January 18

3:30 pm Meeting, Arts & Science. Elliott 167.  
4:30 pm Men's Basketball. UVic Gym. BCIT vs Victoria.  
6:30 pm Women's Basketball. UVic Gym. Calgary vs Victoria.  
8:30 pm Men's Basketball. UVic Gym. Calgary vs Victoria.  
9:15 pm Ice Hockey. Esquimalt Arena. UVic vs LBC.

### SATURDAY, January 19

1:00 pm Women's Field Hockey. UVic. UVic vs Castaways.  
2:15 pm Soccer. Athletic Park. Royals vs UVic.  
2:30 pm Rugby. Gordon Head. JBAA vs Vikings.  
4:30 pm Men's Basketball. UVic Gym. Trinity College vs Victoria.  
6:30 pm Women's Basketball. UVic Gym. Calgary vs Victoria.  
8:30 pm Men's Basketball. UVic Gym. Calgary vs Victoria.

## AROUND THE RING

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA NEWSLETTER  
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA